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United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

Culture of peace

Human rights questions

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 20 June 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the appeal by the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to the peoples of the States members of CIS and the world community on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War, adopted at the meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS States held in Minsk on 1 June 2001 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 37, 40, 132 and 179 of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) O. **Laptenok**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/56/50.

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Annex to the letter dated 20 June 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Appeal by the Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth and the world community on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the start of the Great Patriotic War

On 22 June 2001, 60 years will have elapsed since the start of the Great Patriotic War, the bloodiest and most destructive war not only in the common history of the peoples of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), but also in the entire history of mankind.

The friendship and brotherhood among our peoples were tempered in the crucible of the Great Patriotic War. Their selfless bravery and heroism played a decisive role in winning the victory over the forces of fascism and militarism and in the struggle for the triumph of freedom and peace on Earth. The great exploit of our peoples will live through the centuries. The enormous sacrifices made for the sake of peace, freedom and democracy will not be forgotten.

We appeal to the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to honour the memory of the fallen and to show deep respect and gratitude to the veterans of the Great Patriotic War, to the toilers in the rear and to the widows of the fallen warriors.

Today, when the scale of the threats creating new human suffering remains considerable, we, the Heads of State of the member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, reaffirm our countries' resolve to make an important contribution to the joint efforts of the world community to ensure international security and stability. We call on all States to join efforts in the interests of settling conflicts and to repel in solidarity the new challenges that arise, in the first place from international terrorism and extremism.

We call for a strengthening of the central role of the United Nations in shaping a new democratic world order.

The peoples of the CIS countries see it as their duty to the blessed memory of the millions of their compatriots who gave their lives in the Great Patriotic War, to the veterans of the front and to the toilers in the rear to take an active and effective part in solving mankind's priority problem in the twenty-first century, the building of a just world order free from wars and violence.